

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO NACB COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1342

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, CU
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: FIRST DAY OF MINISTERIALS

REF: HAVANA 1315 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: MINISTERIAL SESSIONS APPARENTLY BEGAN QUIETLY THURSDAY, MAY 18, AS MINISTERS ALLOWED SHARP DISPUTES ON SAHARA AND MIDDLE EAST TO BE PLAYED OUT IN AMBASSADORS/EXPERTS INFORMAL POLITICAL WORKING GROUP AND DRAFTING GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE BEGINNING OF MINISTERIAL SESSIONS WERE REPORTEDLY CALM, SOURCES INDICATE THAT HARSH EXCHANGES CONTINUED IN AMBASSADORS/EXPERTS WORKING GROUP, MAY 18, ON SAHARA AND MIDDLE EAST. PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS CONTINUED TO BE MOROCCO, ALGERIA, EGYPT, AND SYRIA. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSIONS, SAHARA AND MIDDLE EAST ISSUES (ALONG WITH CYPRUS) WERE REPORTEDLY PASSED ON TO DRAFTING GROUP (SEE REFTEL) FOR FORMULATION OF COMPROMISE TEXT INTEGRATING CUBAN-PROPOSED DRAFT, FORMAL AMENDMENTS, AND STATEMENTS ON FLOOR IN POLITICAL WORKING GROUP.

3. APPARENTLY SOUTHERN AFRICAN PORTION OF FINAL DECLARATION, REWORKED BY AFRICAN CAUCAS, WILL BE PASSED ON DIRECTLY TO
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DRAFTING GROUP. AFRICAN DECLARATION IS REPORTEDLY HEAVY WITH FIRE-EATING RHETORIC, BUT MODERATE IN TERMS OF POLICY SUBSTANCE. THERE IS APPARENTLY NOA ATTACK ON WESTERN PEACE INITIATIVES, NOR AGAINST US. AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 18, NEITHER ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA, ERITREA, NOR ZAIRE HAS BEEN MENTIONED.

4. LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES WILL APPARENTLY BE DISCUSSED IN POLITICAL WORKING GROUP, MAY 19, WITH NOW-CAUCUSING LATIN AMERICANS WORKING TOWARD REMOVING REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND MORE POLEMICAL ASPECTS OF CUBAN DRAFT. WE HAVE HEARD SOME REPORTS THAT SOME HARSH LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WAS REFERRED TO DRAFTING GROUP, MAY 18, BUT THIS APPEARS TO CONTRADICT EVIDENCE THAT POLITICAL WORKING GROUP DID NOT YET REACH THESE ISSUES.

5. MEETINGS CONTINUE TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AROUSED "MODERATES" (YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, EGYPT, MOROCCO) AND SUCH AS ALGERIA, SYRIA, AND CUBA WHICH ARE ENERGETICALLY SEEKING TO PUSH MORE RADICAL CONCLUSIONS. THERE ARE LATE REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT CUBA AND ALGERIA ARE NOW REVERTING TO A MORE MODERATE ROLE IN ORDER TO ASSURE AN AGREED OUTCOME OF THE HAVANA MEETINGS.
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